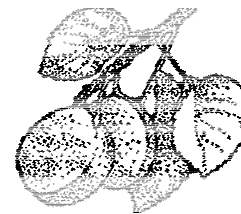


1999 California Prune Acreage Report



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CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

RESULTS

California's 1999 prune acreage is estimated by the California Agricultural Statistics Service at 105,000 acres, of which 83,000 was bearing and 22,000 was non-bearing.

Total estimated acres of prunes in California decreased by nearly 4 percent; however, estimated bearing acreage has remained constant. Non-bearing acres decreased by 4,000 in 1999. French prunes remained the dominant variety in California, accounting for 98 percent of the State's total and bearing acreage.

Sutter County remained the leader for prune acreage in California, with nearly twice the bearing acreage of any other county. Sutter accounts for 25 percent of California's total prune acreage. Butte and Yuba counties remained number two and three, respectively, for total prune acreage. These three counties combined account for 52 percent of the total prune acreage of the State. Sutter County also had the most new plantings of prunes in 1999.

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this survey is to provide annual prune acreage with information on new plantings and removals. It is a continuation of a long series of industry funded prune acreage surveys.

Users are cautioned that this report consists of two parts:

- ▶ Estimated prune acreage -- bearing, non-bearing, and total.
- ▶ Detailed data by variety, year planted, and county -- as voluntarily reported by prune growers and maintained in the CASS data base.

With perfect information, the estimated prune acreage and the detailed data would be synonymous. However, this will never be the case for the following reasons:

- ▶ A voluntary census of 1,200 prune growers is unlikely to ever attain 100 percent completeness.
- ▶ It is extremely difficult for a small staff in Sacramento to detect growers that are planting prunes for the first time.
- ▶ The detailed data reflects tree removals from more than 3,200 acres during the past twelve months. Of this number, significant acreage was harvested in 1999 prior to being pulled out, and that acreage has already been removed from the detailed data.

PROCEDURES

To arrive at the estimated prune acreage, a sample was selected from the pesticide application data maintained by County Agricultural Commissioners and the Department of Pesticide Regulation. This sample was compared to the prune acreage data base as maintained by CASS. When significant discrepancies were detected, the grower was contacted to obtain additional data and the information was included in the detailed data.

The major source of the prune detailed data was a questionnaire mailed to all prune growers included on the CASS data base. The mailing was made in late December 1999 to approximately 1,200 prune growers. The questionnaire contained previously reported crop, variety, and acreage information preprinted. Producers were asked to update the information with new plantings, removals, and any other corrections; new growers were mailed a blank questionnaire. Growers were given six weeks to respond by mail. A telephone follow-up was then undertaken. Field personnel personally visited large growers who did not respond by mail or telephone.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We sincerely thank the many farm operators, owners, and management firms providing the information. Likewise, thanks to the California Prune Board for providing funding and support of this special acreage update survey.

Appreciation is due the following office staff for the hundreds of hours spent phoning and processing survey information: Mitch Graham (Mathematical Statistician), Cindy Torres, Margarita Garcia, Regina Claypoole, Janell McAllister, Lupe Moreno, Sarah Otter, Jeremiah Rhine, April Sanders, Sheryl Zazzi, and Byron Austin.

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1999 PRUNE ACREAGE BY COUNTY, BY YEAR PLANTED a/

County	1987 & Earlier	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	Acres Standing in 1999 b/		
														Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
AMADOR	22	0	0	0	2	0	1	6	0	2	0	0	0	25	8	33
BUTTE	8,269	57	363	553	547	814	923	988	569	279	266	385	162	11,527	2,649	14,175
COLUSA	2,509	95	118	92	43	50	44	104	165	162	87	71	4	2,950	594	3,544
FRESNO	1,356	0	195	274	355	277	852	349	529	451	23	17	4	3,310	1,373	4,682
GLENN	5,619	118	25	65	503	303	611	824	744	399	147	119	59	7,244	2,292	9,536
KERN	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	78	69	73	0	0	0	64	220	283
KINGS	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	22
LAKE	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	0	36
MADERA	653	36	45	149	19	42	0	451	340	41	40	58	0	944	930	1,874
MERCED	1,570	93	84	16	72	28	83	369	147	247	0	6	0	1,946	770	2,716
NAPA	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	12
PLACER	392	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	392	0	392
SACRAMENTO	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	20
SAN BENITO	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	0	29
SAN JOAQUIN	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	100
SANTA CLARA	274	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	278	15	294
SANTA CRUZ	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	16
SHASTA	218	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	166	0	0	0	218	166	383
SOLANO	1,249	6	10	10	36	126	26	184	47	67	7	8	1	1,463	314	1,776
SONOMA	283	1	0	8	7	1	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	299	19	318
STANISLAUS	59	0	5	0	0	3	7	0	8	8	8	0	12	73	35	108
SUTTER	16,280	382	416	655	829	914	1,281	1,821	924	602	376	279	213	20,757	4,214	24,971
TEHAMA	8,230	210	148	248	318	292	228	589	690	363	121	169	103	9,674	2,034	11,707
TULARE	4,174	142	200	167	93	151	455	1,201	560	178	246	137	53	5,381	2,376	7,757
YOLO	2,018	52	1	56	131	38	67	180	30	47	46	4	0	2,363	307	2,670
YUBA	9,028	153	186	296	455	421	517	307	496	476	152	177	156	11,056	1,764	12,820
STATE TOTAL	62,500	1,349	1,793	2,590	3,411	3,458	5,095	7,450	5,338	3,560	1,534	1,429	767	80,195	20,078	100,274

a/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

b/ Non-bearing includes plantings for 1994-99.

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PRUNE ACREAGE AS OF 1999 -- VARIETIES AND AGE GROUPS -- STATE SUMMARY ACREAGE PLANTED DURING YEARS SHOWN AND STANDING IN 1999 a/

Variety	1987 & Earlier	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	Acres Standing in 1999 b/		
														Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
707	25	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	0	47
BURTON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	13	13
FRENCH	60,173	1,324	1,615	2,541	3,379	3,395	4,984	7,240	5,197	3,359	1,437	1,359	741	77,410	19,333	96,743
FRENCH EARLY GRANS	307	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	79	0	0	0	307	79	385
FRENCH IMPROVED	884	10	57	0	10	25	55	149	22	12	15	18	2	1,040	217	1,257
FRIEDMAN	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300	0	300
IMPERIAL	155	0	8	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	168	0	168
MOYER	211	15	92	36	17	38	38	27	81	108	47	48	14	447	325	772
VICTOR LG	283	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	283	0	283
ALL OTHERS	164	0	0	7	4	0	18	35	38	3	22	4	10	193	113	306
STATE TOTAL	62,500	1,349	1,793	2,590	3,411	3,458	5,095	7,450	5,338	3,560	1,534	1,429	767	80,195	20,078	100,274

a/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

b/ Non-bearing includes plantings for 1994-99.

1999 FRENCH PRUNE ACREAGE BY COUNTY a/

County	1987 & Earlier	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	Acres Standing in 1999 b/		
														Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
AMADOR	22	0	0	0	2	0	1	6	0	2	0	0	0	25	8	33
BUTTE	8,023	57	309	553	547	782	915	988	564	240	266	385	162	11,185	2,605	13,790
COLUSA	2,509	95	118	92	43	50	44	104	165	162	63	71	4	2,950	569	3,519
FRESNO	1,185	0	195	274	355	277	852	349	514	451	20	16	0	3,139	1,349	4,488
GLENN	5,569	118	25	65	503	303	593	789	729	399	142	119	59	7,176	2,237	9,413
KERN	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	78	69	73	0	0	0	64	220	283
KINGS	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	22
LAKE	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	0	36
MADERA	653	36	45	149	19	42	0	451	340	41	40	58	0	944	930	1,874
MERCED	1,558	93	84	16	72	28	83	369	147	247	0	6	0	1,934	770	2,704
NAPA	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	12
PLACER	392	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	392	0	392
SACRAMENTO	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	20
SAN BENITO	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	15
SAN JOAQUIN	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	100
SANTA CLARA	270	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	274	15	289
SANTA CRUZ	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	16
SHASTA	218	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	166	0	0	0	218	166	383
SOLANO	1,245	6	10	10	32	126	26	184	43	67	7	3	1	1,454	306	1,760
SONOMA	283	1	0	8	7	1	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	299	19	318
STANISLAUS	59	0	5	0	0	3	0	0	8	8	8	0	2	66	25	91
SUTTER	16,176	382	408	649	818	914	1,281	1,821	924	582	360	279	213	20,627	4,178	24,805
TEHAMA	8,208	210	148	248	318	292	228	589	690	363	121	169	103	9,652	2,034	11,686
TULARE	4,139	139	140	125	87	144	454	1,181	480	147	215	90	43	5,227	2,157	7,384
YOLO	1,988	52	1	56	131	38	62	174	30	47	44	4	0	2,327	298	2,625
YUBA	8,885	141	186	296	455	421	501	307	496	455	152	177	156	10,885	1,743	12,628
STATE TOTAL	61,663	1,334	1,671	2,541	3,389	3,420	5,039	7,389	5,219	3,449	1,452	1,377	743	79,057	19,628	98,685

a/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

b/ Non-bearing includes plantings for 1994-99.

1999 OTHER PRUNE ACREAGE BY COUNTY a/

County	1987 & Earlier	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	Acres Standing in 1999 b/		
														Bearing	Non-Bearing	Total
BUTTE	119	0	54	0	0	32	8	0	5	39	0	0	0	214	44	259
COLUSA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	0	0	25	25
FRESNO	171	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	3	1	4	171	23	194
GLENN	50	0	0	0	0	0	18	35	15	0	5	0	0	68	55	123
MERCED	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	12
SAN BENITO	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	13
SANTA CLARA	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5
SOLANO	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	9	8	17
STANISLAUS	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	10	7	10	17
SUTTER	104	0	8	6	11	0	0	0	0	20	16	0	0	129	36	165
TEHAMA	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	22
TULARE	36	3	60	43	6	6	1	20	80	31	31	47	0	154	209	363
YOLO	30	0	0	0	0	0	6	7	0	0	3	0	0	36	9	45
YUBA	143	12	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	21	0	0	0	171	21	192
STATE TOTAL	710	15	122	49	22	38	56	62	119	111	82	52	14	1,011	440	1,451

a/ Totals may not add due to rounding. Includes acreage of Burton, German, Imperial, Italian/Fellenberg, Miro, Moyer, Punian, Ross, Sergeant/Robe De Sergeant, Sierra Sweet, Sugar, Victor LG, 29-C, and 707 varieties.

b/ Non-bearing includes plantings for 1994-99.

California Prune Acreage

1987-1999

